

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 23-38 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claim 17 is amended. Reconsideration of the present application based on the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 12-16, 19-21 and 23-38 are allowed; and that claim 18 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim.

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in this patent application on December 8, 2003. Applicants have not yet received from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned representative a copy of the Form PTO-1449. A copy of this form is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,903,246 to Dingwall. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dingwall fails to disclose an organic EL device, comprising a first and second set of electrodes, the first set of electrodes being connected to at least one thin film transistor, while the second set of electrodes is not connected to at least one thin film transistor, as recited in claim 17.

Instead, Dingwall discloses an organic EL device comprising O-LED pixels; a reference pixel, PR; a dummy pixel; an organic EL layer; formed above each electrode; an effective optical area in which the electrode is formed; a reference pixel provided on the end of each column; and the organic EL layer disposed on the electrode. Dingwall also discloses that the reference pixel, PR, is used to establish a proper current, by way of distributed current mirror circuitry, for driving any one of the active O-LED pixels, and that current is supplied to the reference pixel.

The dummy areas of the present invention are different than the reference pixels of the cited prior art. For example, in the preferred embodiment recited in claim 17, neither a transistor nor driving elements are connected to the second set of electrodes. Thus, Dingwall fails to disclose a first set of electrodes being connected to at least one thin film transistor, while a second set of electrodes is not connected to at least one thin film transistor.


As such, the applied art fails to disclose all of the features of the present invention. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is distinguishable over the applied art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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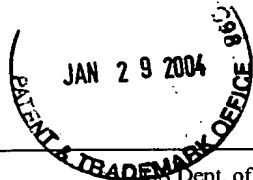
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Attachment:
Form PTO-1449 filed December 8, 2003

Date: January 29, 2004

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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		U.S. Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 111184		APPLICATION NO. 09/991,984	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT(S) Shunichi SEKI et al.			
				FILING DATE November 26, 2001		GROUP 2813	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
		JP 07-142169A and Eng. Trans.	6/2/1995	Japan			
		JP 2000-163014A and Eng. Trans.	6/16/2000	Japan			
		JP 2000-012238A and Eng. Trans.	1/14/2000	Japan			
		JP 11-121168A and Eng. Trans.	4/30/1999	Japan			
		JP 2002-022924A and Eng. Trans.	1/23/2002	Japan			
		JP 10-050481A and Eng. Trans.	2/20/1998	Japan			
		JP 2000-148090A and Eng. Trans.	5/26/2000	Japan			
		JP 2000-091083A and Eng. Trans.	3/31/2000	Japan			
		JP 2001-313182A and Eng. Trans.	11/9/2001	Japan			
		WO 01/78461A and US corresponding Patent Application No. US 2002175620	10/18/2001	Japan			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Date: December 8, 2003**COPY**